



Hello Tribal Citizens:

I am Billi Jo Russell running for Tribal Council. I was born, and raised in Grand Rapids, MI to my father William P. Shananaquet-ba and, my Mother Christine Shomin, both of whom are/were members of LTBB. I am married to David Russell; we will celebrate 37 years of marriage this year (2023). We are the parents of 3 children, Kristy, David (Samantha), and Marcus (Andrea). We are now the proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. I currently reside on the GTB reservation, in East Jordan.

I was born with Optic Atrophy, which left me legally blind. Despite this, I did not allow it to stop me from pursuing an education. I graduated, Phi Theta Kappa (honors society) in 2009, from Grand Rapids Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree. I furthered my education, at Central Michigan University seeking my bachelor's degree in Sociology (2012).

I became a mother at the age of 14. I went on to struggle with substance abuse, for a great deal of my adult life. My past addictions led me to unhealthy behaviors, which caused issues with the law. My husband, and I just celebrated 8 years walking the Red Road. I am open, and available to answer any questions or concerns you may have, regarding these issues. I can be reached at [russellb1167@gmail.com](mailto:russellb1167@gmail.com).

Although, I don't have the usual experience of sitting on boards, or committees that many candidates or councilors possess; I have and continue to be a strong supporter of my community across Indian country. I believe these life experiences have prepared me, for the honor to serve our tribal citizens. I want to be a voice for all citizens, my vote will always be in the best interests of all membership.

If I am elected, I would like to advocate on behalf of ALL Tribal citizens, to strengthen tribal resources for housing, substance abuse care, extended support for those dealing with hardships, and overall community healing and wellness.

I encourage you to join me, in exercising your right to vote, in the primary election, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023, 12pm – 6pm, and the general election, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, 12pm- 6pm, or via ballot by mail.

Vote Billi Jo Russell for Tribal Council! Miigwech!